the failure of the management. The hon. Minister may please tell us as to how Mine I was not flooded and only Mine II was flooded when both the mines have garland walls. Why was not the buffer stock of coal maintained as per the requirement? I ask this because transportation of coal from Mine I to Mine II alone has resulted in a loss of Rs. 78 lakh.....

MR. SPEAKER: The question is lost in the words!

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHEE TINDIVANAM: I am completing it Sir. All this is due to the maximum corruption that is prevailing in Neyveli and the management is getting all the support from the Ministry. Ministry. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he will institute an inquiry to find out the reasons for the loss and damages as also the corruption that is prevailing there?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: I would like to differ with the hon. Member. There was no human failure and it was a natural calamity. On the other hand, the management had done an excellent job in coping with this calamity. As regards the second part, I do agree that we must plan for the future also, after having had this experience. We have already identified the steps that need to be taken in future. Firstly, we have to widen the garland canals because we have to increase the capacity. We also have to strengthen the bunds and the State Government has devised a scheme called the Anti-disaster Programme. We have adopted it and we are going to take steps accordingly. His third question was as to why the lignite had to be transported from Mine I to TPS-II. This was done because TPS-II had to be made operational. Otherwise the Southern Region would have remained in dark. Therefore, though the lignite production in Mine II started only on 2nd of January this year, we were able to start generation of power in TPS on 6th of December last year itself and this was possible only because the lignite was transported from Mine I.

World Bank Assistance for Coal Production

*313. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of World Bank assistance sought currently for improvement in productivity of the coal sector;

(b) whether the Mines have been identified for utilisation of the fund;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount of fund earmarked for utilisation on indigenous machineries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGANDA): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (d). A composite project for improvement in production, productivity and financial viability of 34 underground mines is one of the proposals referred to the World Bank for likely financing. According to the preliminary estimates indicated in the project profile submitted by Coal India Ltd. total additional investment on the project tentatively works out to Rs. 425.21 crores, out of which an amount of Rs. 115.10 crores was identified for World Bank assistance. Until the World Bank responds and carries out a detailed appraisal of the project and agrees to provide loan, no assessment can be made about the indigenous component of machinery required for this project. However, as per World Bank guidelines the indigenous manufacturers of equipment are also eligible to participate in the tenders.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What has been stated in the reply is only regarding the underground mining. There are a number of

open cast mining projects for which assistance from the World Bank has been sought. May I know from the Minister for how many units, World Bank assistance has been sought for underground mining and for open cast mining? Secondly, has the World Bank imposed any conditionalities regarding the manpower planning and closing down of some of the uneconomic mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): There are three categories. One is the improvement of 34 mines, for which assessment and project profiles have been made. That is why I have given the information on that. The additional amount required for this purpose is Rs. 425 crore, out of which, we have sought assistance from the World Bank to the tune of Rs. 115 crores. The second category is about the open cast mines to which the hon. Member has now referred. The proposal has gone but we have not received any reaction from the World Bank. That is why I have not mentioned it here. In this category, we have three open cast mines, viz. (1) KDHesalong Open Cast Mine, (2) Dedhichua Phase II and (3) Jambad Open Cast Mine. The fourth one is a proposal for fighting the Jharia underground fire. This is the second category as far as CIL is concerned.

We have a third category seeking for World Bank assistance for Neyveli where we have got five projects. There is no conditionality as such but when the World Bank gives us the loan they give us a particular time schedule for implementation. That is the only thing.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Assistance to Small Scale Units

*311 SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

SHRI M.V. CHANDRA SHEKARA MURTHY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the union Government propose to provide any assistance for the development of small scale units and for technological upgradation to improve quality of their goods;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of small scale units to which the Union Government have provided assistance during the last three years for technological upgradation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) (a) and (b). Policy measure for promoting and strengthening small tiny and village enterprises laid in Parliament on 6.8.91 are intended to impart more vitality and growth impetus to small scale units including productivity, quality improvement and technology upgradation.

(c) The total number of technical consultancy services and testing facilities provided by Small industries Development Organisation (SIDO) during the last three years (1988-89 to 1990-91) are 2,31,761 and 2,13,839 respectively.

Exploitation of Metal Nodules

*314. DR. R. MALLU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had launched a project for exploitation of metal nodules in our seas; and

(b) if so, the results obtained and the expenditure incurred so far?